

**PER DIEM PSYCHIATRIST**

**DEFINITION:**

Under general direction, to perform professional psychiatric work in regional health clinics; and to perform related work.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

Per Diem Psychiatrist is a class established for part-time psychiatric work in regional health clinics. Incumbents in these positions are licensed physicians who exercise independent medical judgement in assessing and managing psychiatric conditions. Incumbents in this class work on an hourly and part-time basis in temporary positions. The Per Diem Psychiatrist class differs from Psychiatrist class series in that the latter are permanent positions and may be assigned to psychiatric detention units and emergency rooms.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Performs psychiatric assessments, diagnosis and treatment of patients; evaluates the immediate severity of mental illness and determines the priority of patient treatment; conducts neuropsychiatry studies of patients suffering from mental illness, mental retardation, or emotional disorders; obtains/reviews data pertaining to case diagnosis and evaluation; prepares written reports and records of services rendered; counsels families and relatives regarding patients problems and course of treatment; writes evaluation reports; evaluates medication refills for county regional and contract clinic patients; determines the disposition, referral and placement of patients for alcohol and drug detoxification.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Thorough Knowledge of:**

- Diagnostic and treatment methodologies for mental illness and psychiatric/emotional disorders.
- Current diagnostic classifications.
- General medicine and its relationship to mental illness.
- Preventive medicine.
- Diagnosis and treatment of acute alcohol and drug disorders.
- Crisis intervention.
- Legal issues such as conservatorship, related Welfare & Institutions Code, Lanterman, Petris, Short Act and patient rights.

**General Knowledge of:**

- Community organizations, with particular regard to medical and mental health services, programs, and facilities especially shelters, specialized treatment programs, homeless services and crisis services.

**Skills and Abilities to:**

- Diagnose and treat a wide range and severity of mental disorders, and provide psychiatric consultations.

- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team setting.
- Maintain effective relations with patients, families and co-workers.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is:

Graduation from an accredited medical school and completion of a three (3) year residency in psychiatry. Additional experience in an emergency setting is preferred. Experience gained through private practice is not considered highly qualifying.

**SPECIAL LICENSES, NOTES OR REQUIREMENTS:**

**License:**

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.